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U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

[10744/4200]

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2834**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Johannes-Joerg RUEGER et al.
Serial No. : 09/824,193
Filed : April 2, 2001
For : COMPENSATION OF BATCH VARIATION IN THE TRAVEL
DUE TO VARIATIONS IN THE LAYER THICKNESS OR
NUMBER OF LAYERS IN MULTI-LAYER PIEZOELECTRIC
ELEMENTS
Examiner : Mark O. Budd
Art Unit : 2834

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Date: 3/21/03

Signature: Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No. 72-4001)

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

SIR:

Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified application is a Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants request a two month extension of time to respond to the Final Office Action mailed October 10, 2002, resetting the response date to March 10, 2003. The extension fee of \$410.00 and any additional fees should be charged to Kenyon & Kenyon, Deposit Account No. 11-0600. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Bv-

Richard L. Mayer
Reg. No. 22,490



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200

NY01 559863 v.1



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Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No. 22,490)

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

SIR:

This paper addresses the Final Office Action dated October 10, 2002 in connection with the above-captioned application.

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1 to 34 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 8 to 17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly "vague and indefinite for the reasons noted in paper no 6 (3-27-02)." Final Office Action at p. 2. The Office Action of March 27, 2002 states at page 2 that "[t]hese claims are vague and indefinite in that they purpose [sic] to be drawn to a method for charging but no process or method steps are claimed." The present Final Office Action states that "no specific recognizable steps are claimed,"

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